Remarks

The Office Action and the references cited therein have been carefully reviewed. The following remarks herein are considered to be responsive thereto. Claims 1-20 remain in this application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections for at least the reasons set forth below. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 7, 12, 19 and 20 are patentably distinguished over the cited references and are allowable and that claims 2-6, 8-11 and 13-18 are allowable at least because they depend from an allowable base claim.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Office Laid-open Kokai Patent Application JP10-248020-A issued to Hiyoshi (Hiyoshi) in view of US Patent No. 5,089,885 issued to Clark (Clark).

The application of Hiyoshi discloses a "parent television 10 and a child television 20A and 20B put under control of [the] parent television 10 (Page 3/23, Problem To Be Solved)." More specifically, the application discloses that the children's televisions 20A, 20B are configured to become monitors or extensions of the parent's television 10 and thus under the control of the parent's television 10 in a master-slave configuration. *See* page 6/23, paragraph [0004].

In order to accomplish the goals of the invention, the parent's television 10 is enabled with the capability to utilize the children's televisions 20A, 20B as a monitor in addition to having the remote control capability to change the channel on the children's

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televisions 20A, 20B and to turn off the children's televisions 20A and 20B. *See*, page 11/23, paragraph [0012], page14/23, paragraph [0017].

Therefore, Hiyoshi is limited to a master-slave configuration between television sets, wherein the slave sets within the system serve as monitor extensions of the master set. Further, the master set having the capability to control the broadcast content and power functions of the slave sets.

The patent to Clark discloses a system that comprises "plurality of slave video information selection systems, [wherein the information selection systems] can be remotely controlled, monitored and operated by a host programmed data processor at a location remote from the slave video information selection systems." Further, "a viewer can select video information that is to be displayed on a common channel of the television monitors of all viewers." *See* Abstract.

In regard to claims 1 and 7, the Examiner cites Hiyoshi as disclosing:

> [A] processor configured to provide query information requesting information identifying at least one of content and channel currently watched on the other television and configured to automatically provide queried information identifying at least one of content and channel currently watched at said television in response to a query request from the other television.

Further, the Examiner states that this claimed limitation of the present invention is met since "the parent can request to monitor or view the content from any child's television with the parent television control means, and the request information including the content and channel currently watched at the child's television is displaying at the parent's television display."

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However, as mentioned above, Hiyoshi discloses a "parent television 10 and a child television 20A and 20B put under control of [the] parent television 10." Specifically, this configuration is of a master-slave configuration between the parent television 10 and the child television 20A and 20B and not a peer-to-peer configuration wherein each television has equivalent capabilities and responsibilities. Hiyoshi does not teach that the parent's television 10 is configured to automatically provide queried information identifying at least one of content and channel currently watched at said television in response to a query request from the other television (e.g., the child's television 20A and 20B). Thus, the child television 20A and 20B of Hiyoshi cannot access any information in regard to the parent television's 10 currently viewed content or control the functions of the parent television 10 as it would be able to in a peer-to-peer configuration.

As mentioned above Hiyoshi is specifically configured to be a master-slave system wherein the parent television 10 has complete control of the child television 20A and 20B, thus making the child televisions 20A and 20B merely extensions of the parent television 10. Therefore, Hiyoshi specifically teaches away from the limitations of the presently claimed invention.

The Examiner further cited Clark as disclosing the "technique of using a 'query request' from a user to request for 'query information' from another user at the other television." Clark is cited as disclosing "a monitoring system that a host using a video television system which monitoring a plurality of television users, and based on the user query requests, the queried information can be provided to the users from the host video television system."

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As mentioned above, Clark disclose a system that comprises "plurality of slave video information selection systems, [wherein the information selection systems] can be remotely controlled, monitored and operated by a host programmed data processor at a location remote from the slave video information selection systems." Further, Clark does not disclose <u>a processor configured to provide query information</u>. Clark discloses that a "viewer accesses the data processor by use of a telephone keypad and selects video information to be broadcast by inputting a digital code." *See* Abstract. Once a viewer makes a selection, the host (master) broadcasts the information to the "plurality of slave video information selection systems." *Id.* Thus, Clark does not teach a "<u>technique of using a 'query request' from a user to request for 'query information' from another user at the other television</u>" as stated by the Examiner.

Further, Clark does not cure the deficiencies of Hiyoshi since the two disclosed inventions are both directed to master-slave configurations, additionally neither disclosures teach the utilization of a peer-to-peer query communication between televisions as presently claimed in the present application.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 7 are allowable for at least the given reasons. Further, claims 2-6 and 11, which depend from claim 1, and claims 8-10, which depend from claim 7 are allowable therewith at least because they depend from an allowable base claim. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

As per claims 12, 19 and 20, the Examiner stated that the "method claims and system claims with same limitations are rejected for the reasons given with respect to the systems of claims 1-11."

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Therefore, it is respectfully submitted in view of the remarks presented in regard to independent claims 1 and 7, that claims 12, 19 and 20 are allowable for at least the given reasons. Further, claims 13-18, which depend from claim 12, are allowable therewith at least because they depend from an allowable base claim. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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